

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15562

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE STATEMENT ON HIJACKING: JAPANESE
DECISION TO ASSIGN SECURITY OFFICERS ABROAD

1. LOCAL PRESS AUGUST 26 REPORTED NEW GOJ POLICY TO DEAL
WITH FUTURE ACTS OF HIJACKING AND OTHER FORMS OF TERRORISM.
MOFA'S FIRST CONSULAR DIVDIR IKEDA TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 28
THAT POLICY STATEMENT REFLECTED TOUGHER LINE BUT CHANGE
WAS ONE OF NUANCE. ACCORDING TO IKEDA, UPON RETURN FROM
BONN SUMMIT, FUKUDA DIRECTED MINISTRIES TO COME UP WITH
REVISED POLICY WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE SPIRIT OF BONN
ANTI-HIJACKING POLICY. INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP, CHAIRED BY
CABINET SECRETARY ABE AND COMPOSED OF MOFA, JUSTICE AND
TRANSPORTATION REPRESENTATIVES, AGREED ON POLICY STATEMENT
WHICH WAS APPROVED BY CABINET AUGUST 25. IKEDA SAID THIS
STATEMENT DID NOT RULE OUT NEGOTIATING WITH HIJACKERS IF
LIVES OF HOSTAGES AT STAKE, BUT DID MAKE JAPANESE POSITION
FIRMER FOR DEALING WITH UNLAWFUL DEMANDS OF HIJACKERS.

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2. COMMENTING ON NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT GOJ WOULD ASSIGN
FIFTY POLICE AND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE (SDF) PERSONNEL TO
JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD, IKEDA SAID THESE
OFFICERS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL SECURITY. THEY
WOULD BE SECONDED TO MOFA (THEREBY AVOIDING LEGAL PROBLEMS
IN ASSIGNING POLICE AND SDF PERSONNEL ABROAD), ALL WOULD

RECEIVE CRASH MOFA ORIENTATION TRAINING, AND SOME WOULD BE GIVEN LANGUAGE COURSE. THEY WOULD BE IN PLACE BY END OF DECEMBER 1978 WITH AN ADDITIONAL 10 ASSIGNED ABROAD BY MARCH 1979. MOFA HOPED TO INCREASE NUMBER OF SECURITY OFFICERS BY ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN A YEAR UNTIL MOST MAJOR EMBASSIES OR CONSULATES HAD AT LEAST ONE OR TWO.

3. TEXT OF GOJ BASIC POSITION ON HIJACKING FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. IN ORDER TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM SUCH AS HIJACKING, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. IN THE STATEMENT ON THE HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT, WHICH WAS ISSUED AT THE RECENT SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN BONN, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN, EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO TAKE JOINT MEASURES AGAINST COUNTRIES WHICH REFUSE EXTRADITION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIJACKING ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, INTENDS TO MAKE SPEEDY PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MEASURES WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE STATEMENT AND ALSO TO STRONGLY URGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE MEASURES.

IN ORDER TO COMBAT TERRORISM SUCH AS HIJACKING, IT IS INDISPENSABLE TO ENSURE THAT THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES ARE THE MOST STRINGENT POSSIBLE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE

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GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE STRONG EFFORTS. SHOULD AN INCIDENT UNFORTUNATELY OCCUR, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL, AS A MATTER OF COURSE, MAKE THE MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO SECURE THE SAFETY OF HOSTAGES BY TAKING ALL POSSIBLE STEPS. AT THE SAME TIME, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO BE FIRM IN DEALING WITH UNLAWFUL DEMANDS OF HIJACKERS, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER.

THE GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR THE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF THE PEOPLE ON THIS POLICY. UNQUOTE MANSFIELD

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